March 24, 2009

Mr. Chris Oliver, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

Dear Mr. Oliver:

We approved Amendments 90 to the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish and Amendment 78 to the Fishery Management Plan for Gulf of Alaska Groundfish (FMPs) on March 16, 2009. Amendments 90/78 to the FMPs allow cooperatives in the Amendment 80 Program and Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program to engage in post-delivery transfers of cooperative quota (CQ) to cover any overages. This action requires that a member of a cooperative could not begin a fishing trip for a cooperative if any of its CQ accounts had a negative balance, and all cooperatives must not have a negative CQ account for any species after the end of a calendar year. A final rule to implement Amendments 90/78 will follow at a later date.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region